

MARVEL

#1

NOW!

COSTA  
SANDOVAL  
ALMARA





**YEARS AGO, THINKING HE WAS DONNING A NEW COSTUME, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH A UNIQUE ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE.**

**WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS MAKING HIM ANGRIER AND MORE AGGRESSIVE AND ACTUALLY A LIVING ORGANISM, A MEMBER OF AN ALIEN SPECIES CALLED THE KLYNTAR, HE REJECTED IT, LEAVING THE CREATURE FEELING BETRAYED AND ALONE ON A FOREIGN WORLD.**

**BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND AS A RESULT CAN NOW GRANT WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF ITS FIRST HOST: WALL CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND TURN INVISIBLE.**

**THE SYMBIOTE HAS HAD MANY HOSTS OVER THE YEARS, SOME NOBLE, SOME NEFARIOUS. AND THOUGH IT HAS BEEN A LETHAL PROTECTOR, A GOVERNMENT AGENT, AND A GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY, IT WILL ALWAYS REMAIN...**



# VENOM

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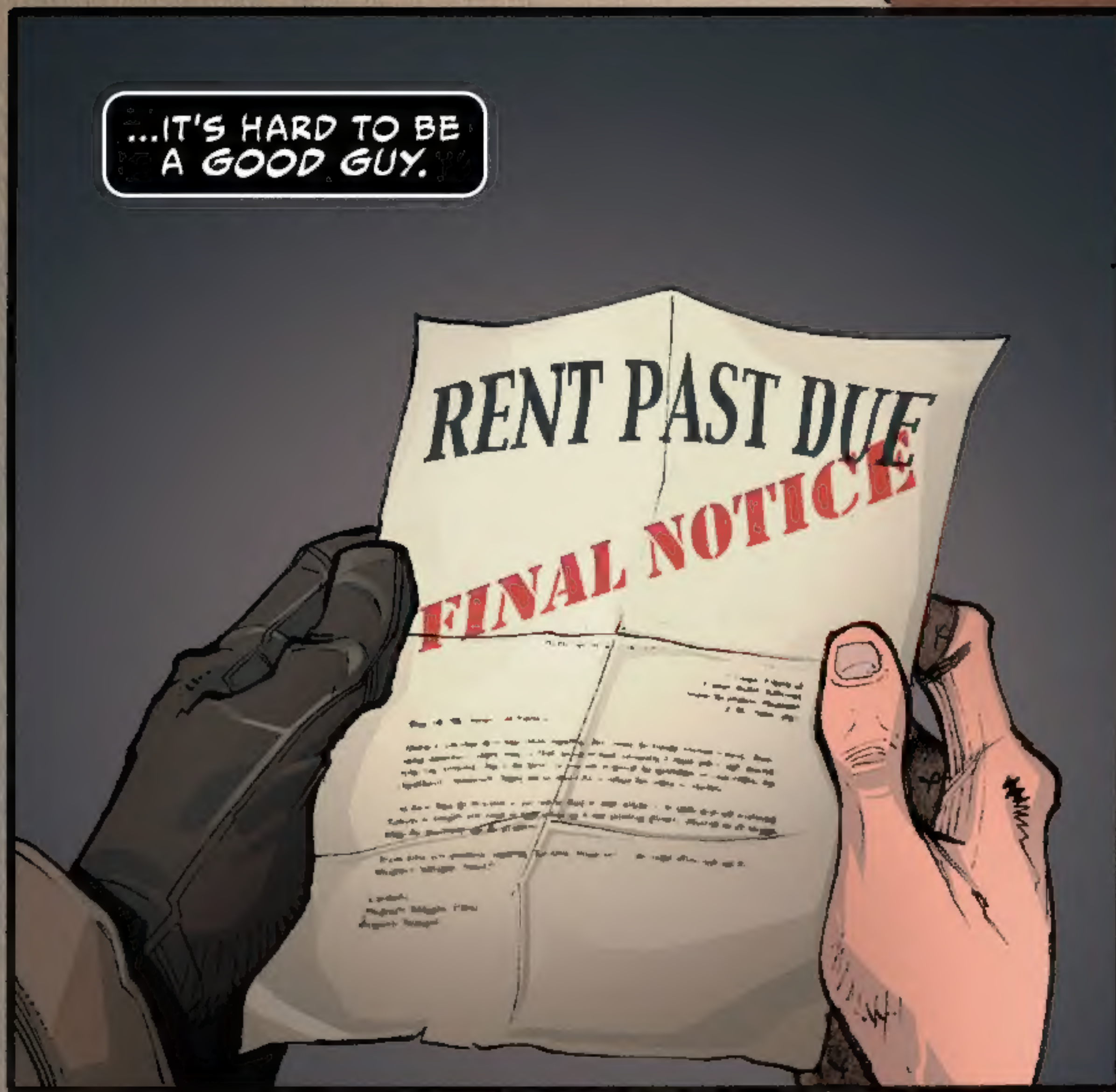
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**ALAN FINE**  
EXEC. PRODUCER





ONE THING THIS  
WORLD HAS  
TAUGHT ME...



...IT'S HARD TO BE  
A GOOD GUY.



BAD GUYS HAVE IT  
MUCH EASIER. GIVEN  
A MEASURE OF POWER,  
IT'S EASIER TO USE  
IT SELFISHLY. IT'S  
EASIER TO TAKE  
THAN TO GIVE.



I'VE LEARNED IT TAKES  
STRENGTH TO DO WHAT'S  
RIGHT. AND POWER IS  
NOT STRENGTH.



WHAT'S WORSE IS  
THAT STRENGTH,  
I'VE LEARNED,  
TAKES HELP.



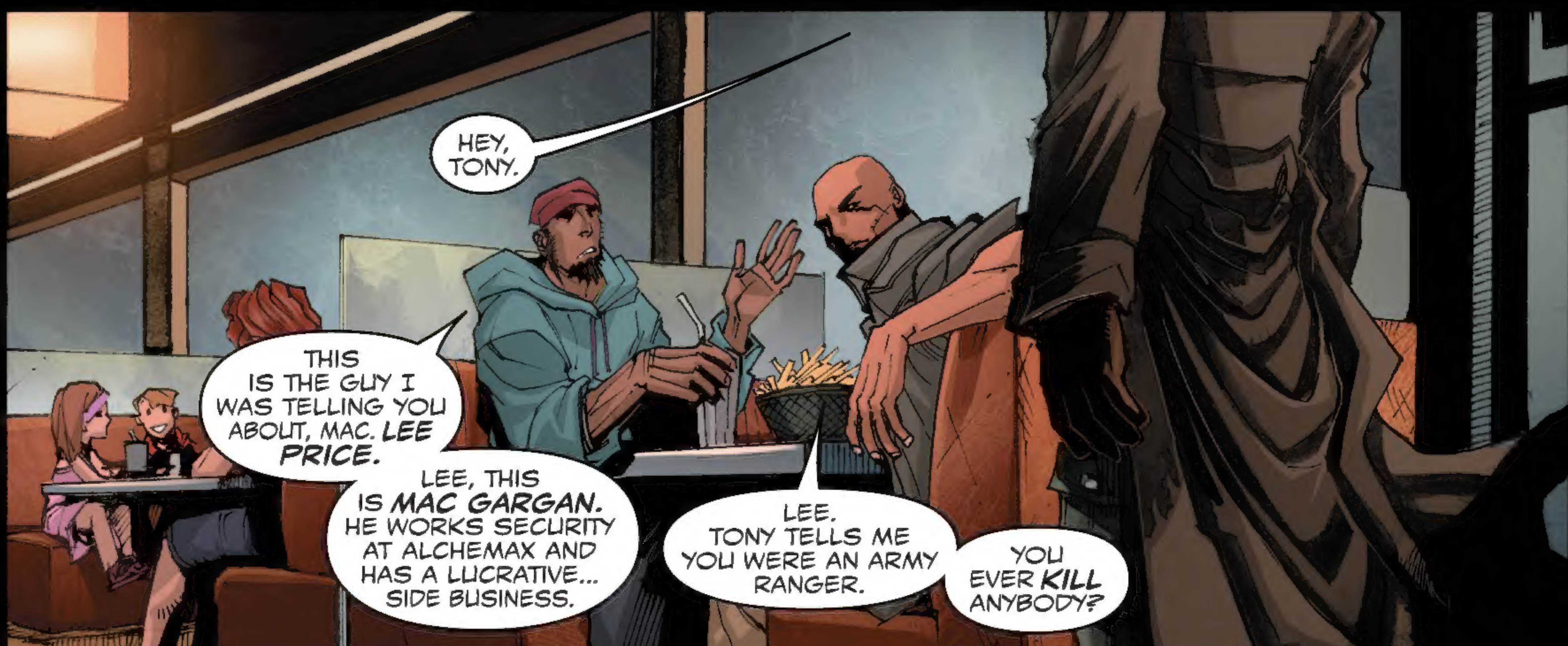


I'M JUST LOOKING  
FOR A LITTLE HELP.





HEY,  
LEE!



HEY,  
TONY.

THIS  
IS THE GUY I  
WAS TELLING YOU  
ABOUT, MAC. LEE  
PRICE.

LEE, THIS  
IS **MAC GARGAN**.  
HE WORKS SECURITY  
AT **ALCHEMAX** AND  
HAS A LUCRATIVE...  
SIDE BUSINESS.

LEE.  
TONY TELLS ME  
YOU WERE AN ARMY  
RANGER.

YOU  
EVER **KILL**  
ANYBODY?



YEAH.

WHY? WE  
GONNA HAVE TO  
KILL SOMEBODY  
FOR THIS  
JOB?





WHOA, HEY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TONY HAS TOLD YOU, BUT MY EMPLOYER RUNS A **NON-LETHAL ORGANIZATION**.

WE'RE STRICTLY **TRANSACTIONAL**.

UH-HUH.



TONY, I THINK YOUR FRIEND MIGHT BE AN @#%\$%.

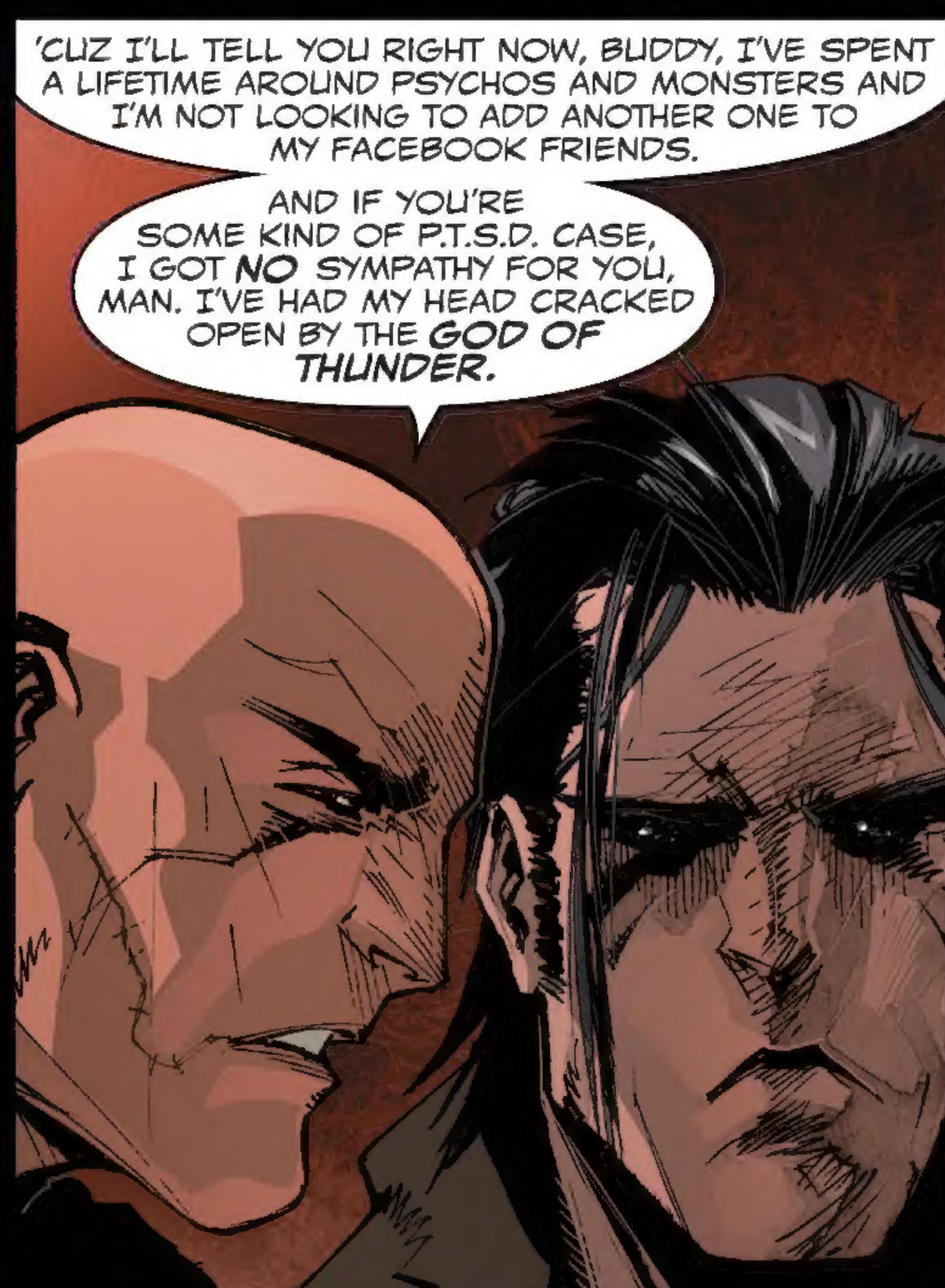
AND I GOT A **THING** ABOUT @#%\$%. BEING THAT THEY'RE @#%\$%.

NO, NO! YOU GOT HIM ALL WRONG. LEE'S JUST **NERVOUS**, IS ALL.



NO. HE DON'T LOOK LIKE A GUY WHO GETS **NERVOUS**. DO YOU, SOLDIER-BOY?

YOU ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO WENT OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD AND GOT TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF **MURDER MACHINE**?



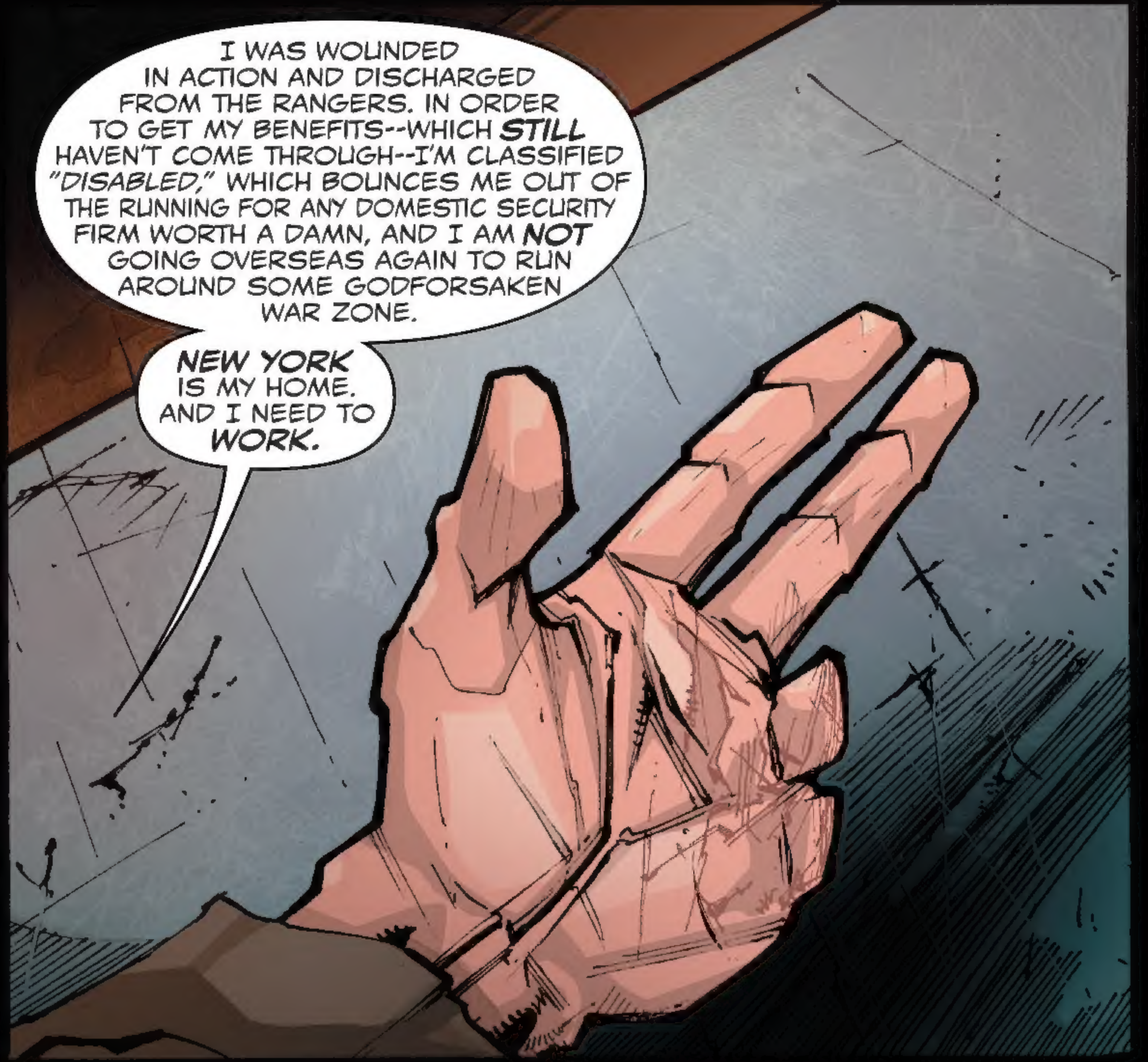
'CUZ I'LL TELL YOU RIGHT NOW, BUDDY, I'VE SPENT A LIFETIME AROUND PSYCHOS AND MONSTERS AND I'M NOT LOOKING TO ADD ANOTHER ONE TO MY FACEBOOK FRIENDS.

AND IF YOU'RE SOME KIND OF P.T.S.D. CASE, I GOT **NO SYMPATHY** FOR YOU, MAN. I'VE HAD MY HEAD CRACKED OPEN BY THE **GOD OF THUNDER**.





OKAY.



I WAS WOUNDED  
IN ACTION AND DISCHARGED  
FROM THE RANGERS. IN ORDER  
TO GET MY BENEFITS--WHICH **STILL**  
HAVEN'T COME THROUGH--I'M CLASSIFIED  
"DISABLED," WHICH BOUNCES ME OUT OF  
THE RUNNING FOR ANY DOMESTIC SECURITY  
FIRM WORTH A DAMN, AND I AM **NOT**  
GOING OVERSEAS AGAIN TO RUN  
AROUND SOME GODFORSAKEN  
WAR ZONE.

NEW YORK  
IS MY HOME,  
AND I NEED TO  
WORK.



I DO WHAT  
YOU TELL ME. YOU  
NEED SOMEONE TO STAY  
COOL WHEN THINGS  
GET DICEY? I CAN  
DO THAT.

YOU NEED  
ME TO PULL THE  
TRIGGER ON--

WHOA,  
HEY! WHAT DID  
I SAY?




WE DON'T  
NEED YOU **KILLING**  
ANYONE. WE JUST NEED  
YOU TO STAND THERE AND  
**LOOK** LIKE YOU CAN KILL  
SOMEONE. AND I THINK  
YOU GOT THAT  
DOWN.



SEE  
YOU JOKERS  
TONIGHT.

YOU'RE TOLD  
THERE'S MORE GOOD  
THAN BAD IN THE WORLD,  
BUT IF THERE IS, I  
HAVEN'T SEEN IT.





SURE, THERE'S THE  
COSTUMES, BUT THAT ONLY HELPS  
PROVE MY POINT. FOR EVERY ONE  
OF THEM FIGHTING FOR TRUTH  
AND JUSTICE, THERE ARE TWENTY  
MORE ROBBING BANKS AND  
BUILDING DOOMSDAY MACHINES.

DO YOU  
NEED SOME TIME...  
ON YOUR OWN...

GOTTA BE  
SOME FOOD  
AROUND HERE  
SOMEPLACE.

THE ODDS  
ARE NOT IN  
OUR FAVOR.

WOZZAT?

SOMETIMES  
WE HAVE TO MAKE  
COMPROMISES.





MRRGPH!

NNG.

HURGH!

THERE'S SO MUCH  
PAIN IN THIS CITY.  
SO MANY LOST  
PEOPLE.

AND NOW I'M  
JUST ONE OF  
THEM.





YOU  
KNOW, I REMEMBER  
WHEN **CREDIT CARD  
NUMBERS** WERE  
THE BIG THING.



MEET A GUY  
IN A COFFEE SHOP,  
HE GIVES YOU A  
CD-ROM.

NOW  
LOOK AT THIS--SOME  
KINDA TOXIC **GAS** THAT  
MAYBE TURNS YOU INTO  
A **MONSTER**.



LAST YEAR I  
MOVED A **NUCLEAR  
WARHEAD**. I ACTUALLY  
**TOUCHED** IT. CAN YOU BELIEVE  
THAT? WHAT'S HAPPENED  
TO THIS BUSINESS  
IS--

TONY.

THEY'RE  
HERE.



ALL RIGHT,  
KIDS. YOUR UNCLE  
TOMBSTONE WOULD LIKE  
TO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING  
HIS STUFF. YOU CAN  
HEAD BACK HOME  
NOW.

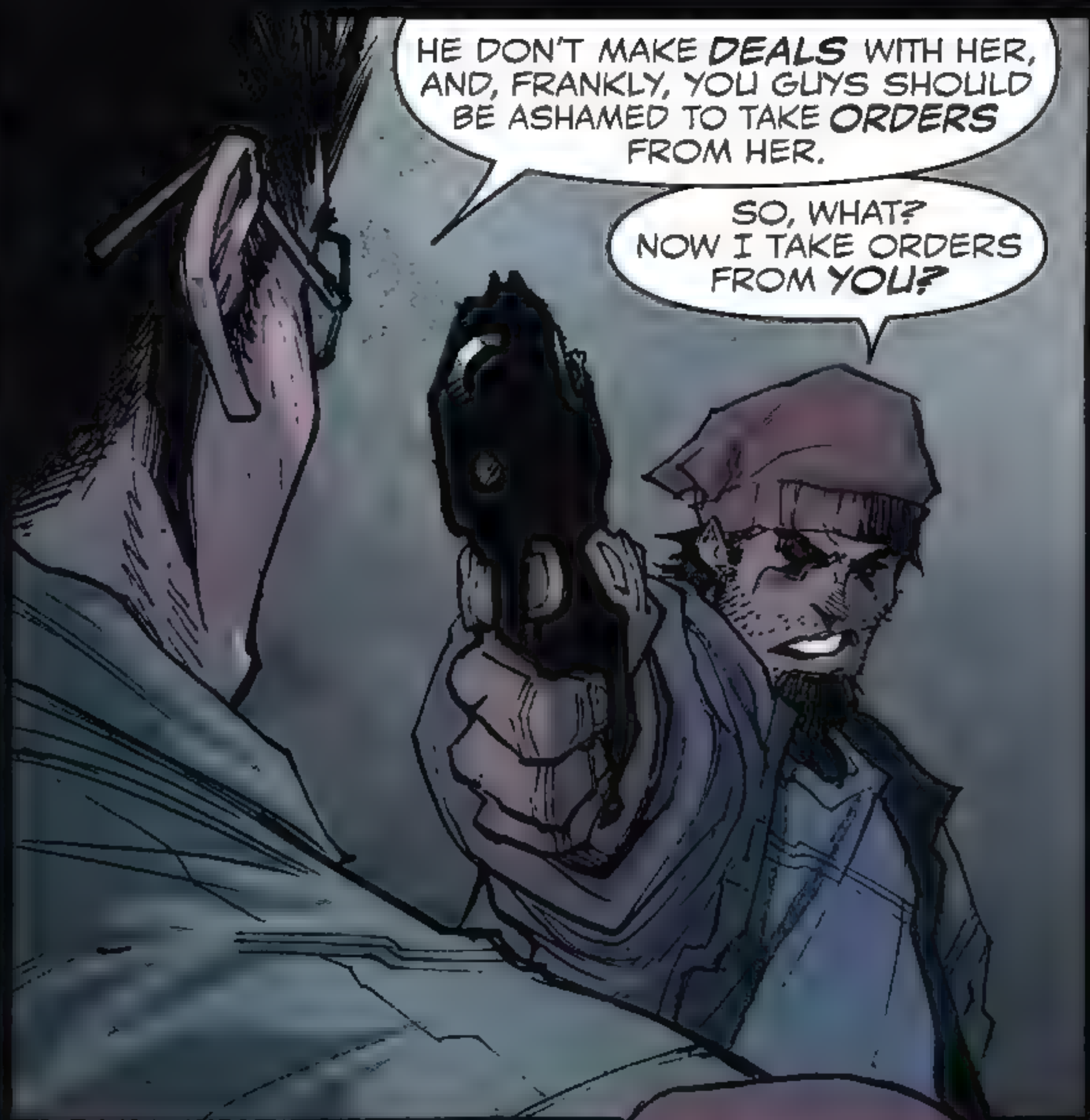




WHERE'S  
THE  
PAYMENT?

THE PAYMENT  
IS YOU GET TO  
**LIVE**. COME WORK  
FOR US IF YOU  
WANT.

OUR  
BOSS IS AN **OLD-  
FASHIONED GUY**.  
SAYS A CRIME BOSS WHO  
LOOKS LIKE A **SUPER  
MODEL IN SPANDEX**  
IS HIS IDEA OF A  
**BAD JOKE**.



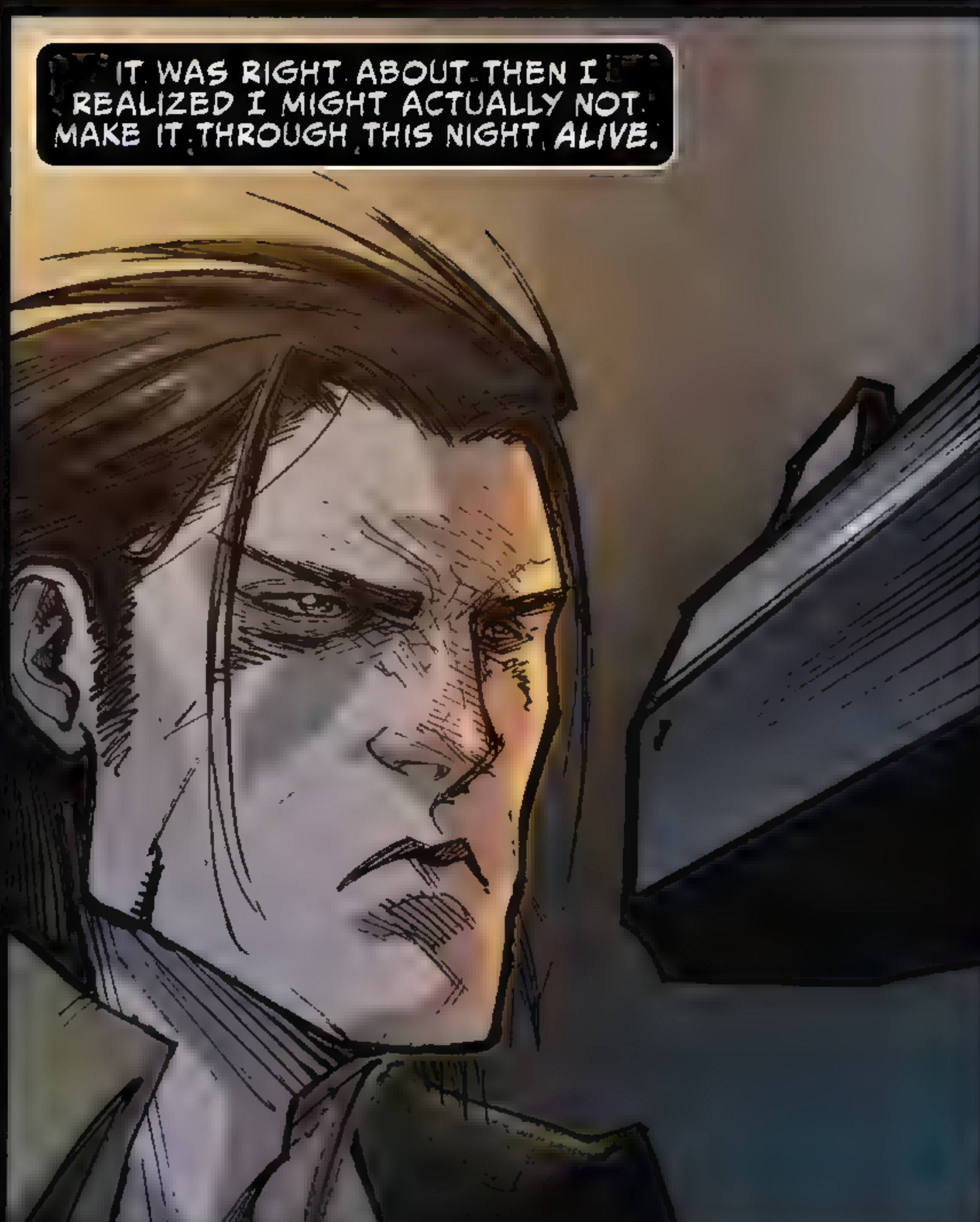
HE DON'T MAKE **DEALS** WITH HER,  
AND, FRANKLY, YOU GUYS SHOULD  
BE ASHAMED TO TAKE **ORDERS**  
FROM HER.

SO, WHAT?  
NOW I TAKE **ORDERS**  
FROM **YOU**?

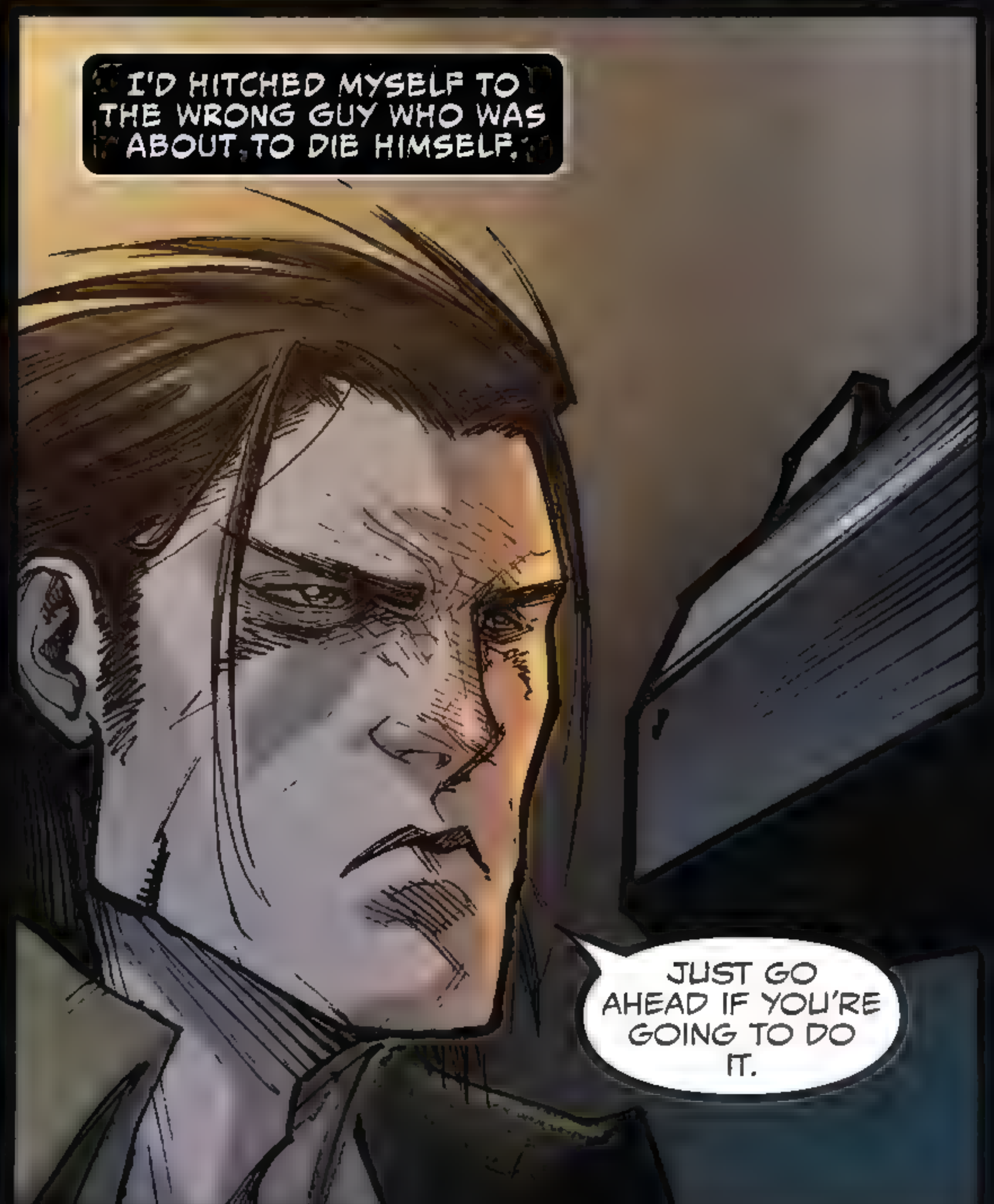


THIS WASN'T  
SUPPOSED TO GET  
**VIOLENT**. I DIDN'T  
BRING A **GUN**.

THAT'S **YOUR**  
DUMB MISTAKE,  
THEN.



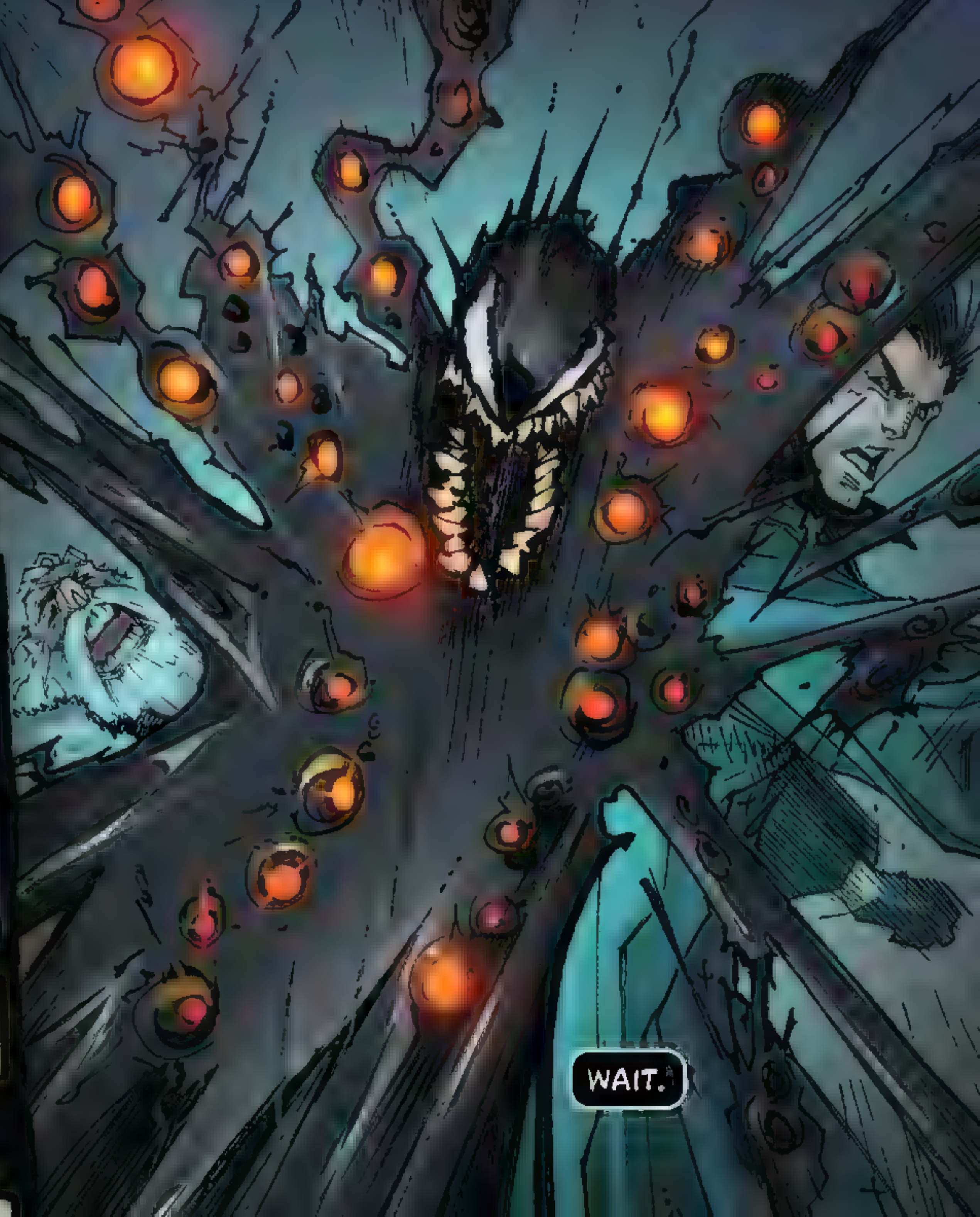
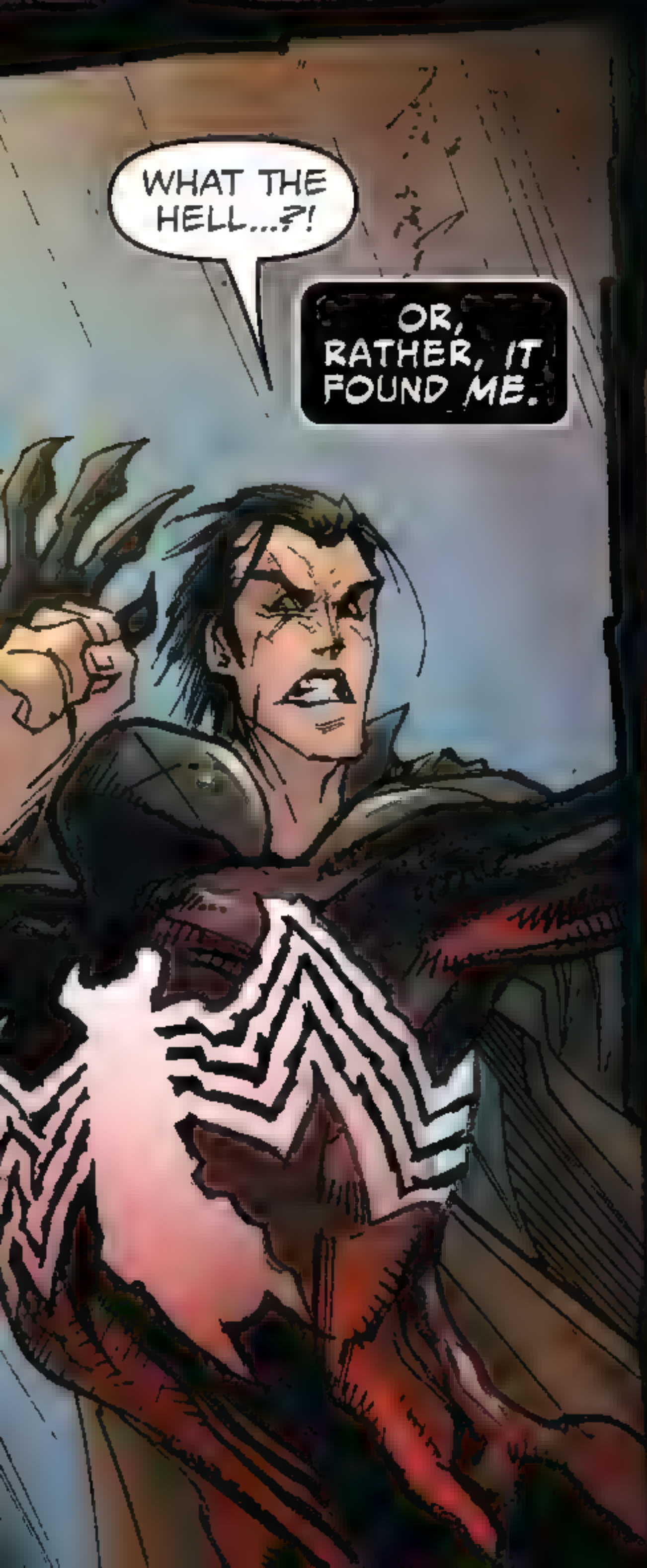
IT WAS RIGHT ABOUT THEN I  
REALIZED I MIGHT ACTUALLY NOT  
MAKE IT THROUGH THIS NIGHT **ALIVE**.



I'D HITCHED MYSELF TO  
THE WRONG GUY WHO WAS  
ABOUT TO DIE HIMSELF.

JUST GO  
AHEAD IF YOU'RE  
GOING TO DO  
IT.







SAW A LOT OF VIOLENCE GROWING UP.

EVERYWHERE. NOT JUST HOME.

AFTER FIVE YEARS AS A WARD OF THE STATE, I FIGURED, HELL, WHY NOT MAKE THEM PAY FOR A FEW MORE?

IT'S ONE HELLHOLE AFTER ANOTHER, JUST LIKE BEFORE, BUT AT LEAST THEY GIVE YOU **WEAPONS** AND THE TRAINING TO **USE** THEM.

AND I WAS GOOD.

ANOTHER THING THEY TEACH YOU, THOUGH, IS TO LOOK OUT FOR THE **OTHER** GUY.

IT WAS A HARD LESSON.

A SOLDIER!

WHAT THE--

MY LAST HOST WAS A SOLDIER, AND HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST DECENT MEN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

WHAT IS THIS?

WHAT ARE YOU?!

HE SAVED NEW YORK--HE SAVED THE WORLD!

AND WE COULD, TOO!

WE'RE GOING TO DO SUCH GREAT THINGS TOGETHER--

SHUT UP!

YOU THINK YOU'RE IN CONTROL HERE?

NO, THE ONE IN CONTROL...

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

A large, central illustration of Spider-Man's face is surrounded by several smaller, irregular panels depicting different scenes and characters. The panels are arranged in a circular pattern around the central face.

**Top Left Panel:** A man in a white shirt and tie is shown from the chest up, looking down. He has a small wound on his forehead.

**Top Right Panel:** A close-up of a character's face, showing a wide-eyed, intense expression. The character has dark hair and is wearing a dark jacket.

**Middle Left Panel:** A man in a white shirt and tie is shown from the waist up, looking down. He has a small wound on his forehead.

**Middle Right Panel:** A man in a white shirt and tie is shown from the waist up, looking down. He has a small wound on his forehead.

**Bottom Left Panel:** A man in a white shirt and tie is shown from the waist up, looking down. He has a small wound on his forehead.

**Bottom Right Panel:** A man in a white shirt and tie is shown from the waist up, looking down. He has a small wound on his forehead.

**Spider-Man Panel:** Spider-Man is shown in his iconic red and blue suit, crouching on a rooftop. He is looking towards the right side of the page.

**Villain Panels:** Several other panels show various villains, including Doctor Octopus, Green Goblin, and others, in various poses and settings.

**Text Boxes:**

- "SAW A LOT OF VIOLENCE GROWING UP."
- "EVERYWHERE. NOT JUST HOME."
- "AFTER FIVE YEARS AS A WARD OF THE STATE, I FIGURED, HELL, WHY NOT MAKE THEM PAY FOR A FEW MORE?"
- "IT'S ONE HELLHOLE AFTER ANOTHER, JUST LIKE BEFORE. BUT AT LEAST THEY GIVE YOU WEAPONS AND THE TRAINING TO USE THEM."
- "AND I WAS GOOD."
- "ANOTHER THING THEY TEACH YOU, THOUGH, IS TO LOOK OUT FOR THE OTHER GUY."
- "IT WAS A HARD LESSON."
- "MY LAST HOST WAS A SOLDIER, AND HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST DECENT MEN I'VE EVER KNOWN."
- "WHAT THE--"
- "A SOLDIER!"
- "WHAT IS THIS?"
- "WHAT ARE YOU?"
- "HE SAVED NEW YORK--HE SAVED THE WORLD!"
- "AND WE COULD, TOO!"
- "WE'RE GOING TO DO SUCH GREAT THINGS TOGETHER--"
- "SHUT UP!"
- "YOU THINK YOU'RE IN CONTROL HERE?"
- "NO, THE ONE IN CONTROL..."

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SHUT UP!

YOU THINK YOU'RE IN CONTROL HERE?

NO. THE ONE IN CONTROL...

[illegible]





...IS ME!


NO!

DON'T!

H-HOLY--!

NO,  
STOP!



A comic book page featuring a large central panel and two smaller panels at the bottom. The central panel shows Venom, a black, symbiote-covered figure with a white chest and a long, pink tongue, attacking a man in a blue jacket. The man is screaming in pain. In the background, another man in a blue jacket is seen running away. The top panel shows a close-up of Venom's face as it screams. The bottom left panel shows a close-up of the man's face as he looks up in shock. The bottom right panel shows the man running away from the scene. The text "DON'T DO THIS!" is in a speech bubble from Venom in the top panel. The text "I DON'T WANT THIS!" is in a speech bubble from the man in the middle panel. The text "LEE...ARE YOU IN THERE, MAN?" and "COME ON, LEE. PLEASE HEAR ME." are in speech bubbles from the man in the middle panel. The text "WOW. THAT'S..." is in a speech bubble from the man in the bottom left panel. The text "WHAT A RUSH!" is in a speech bubble from the man in the bottom right panel. The sound effect "SPLORTCH" is written in large, stylized letters in the middle panel.

DON'T  
DO THIS!

SPLORTCH

I DON'T  
WANT THIS!

LEE...ARE  
YOU IN THERE,  
MAN?

COME ON,  
LEE. PLEASE  
HEAR ME.

WOW.  
THAT'S...

WHAT A  
RUSH!





YOU CAN CONTROL THAT THING?

I THINK I CAN, YEAH.



HOLY @##\$%!, MAN, WE GOTTA GET YOU TO A DOCTOR OR SOMETHIN'.

NO. NO...JUST LET ME THINK.



THINK? WHAT'S THERE TO THINK ABOUT, MAN? YOU'VE GOT MONSTER GOO ON YOU!

THIS THING...IT'S TALKING INSIDE MY HEAD. IT'S A SUIT. OTHER PEOPLE HAVE HAD IT BEFORE ME.



A "SUIT"? WHAT, YOU'RE IRON MAN NOW?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

IT'S SPEAKING IN MY MIND. I CAN HEAR ITS THOUGHTS.

THE POSSIBILITIES FOR US--IF WE KEEP THIS SECRET...

BETTER. THIS THING IS ALIVE. IT'S FOUGHT SPIDER-MAN. THIS...IS AMAZING.



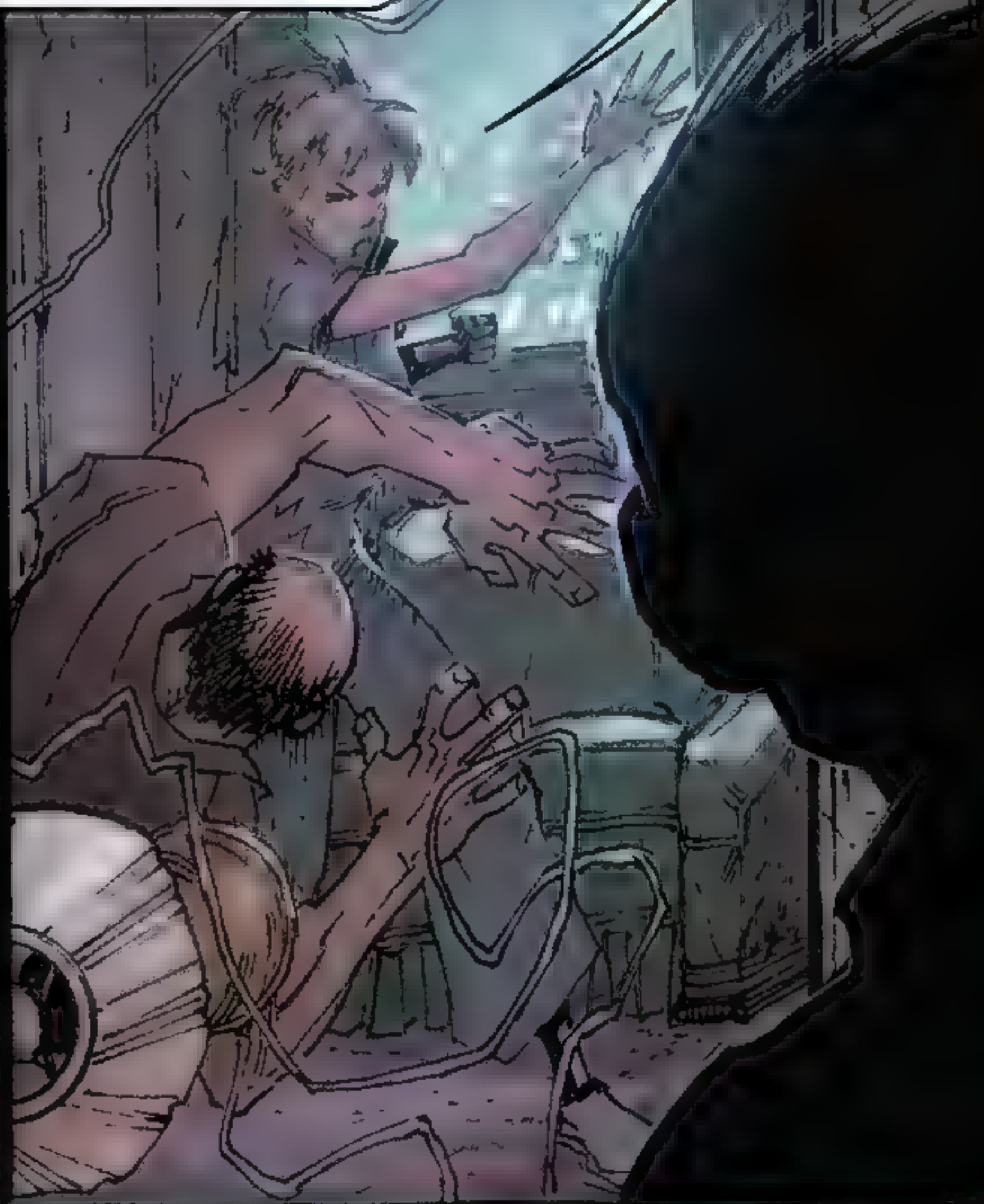




SAW A LOT OF VIOLENCE.  
**EVERYWHERE**, NOT JUST HOME.  
BUT HOME WAS THE **WORST**.

THAT DIDN'T MEAN I  
WAS **SPECIAL**, THOUGH.  
THAT JUST MEANT I  
WAS FROM **QUEENS**.

THAT'S  
THE LAST TIME  
YOU EVER LAY  
A HAND ON  
ME!



THERE WAS THIS  
KID IN MY BUILDING.  
**HE WAS SPECIAL**.

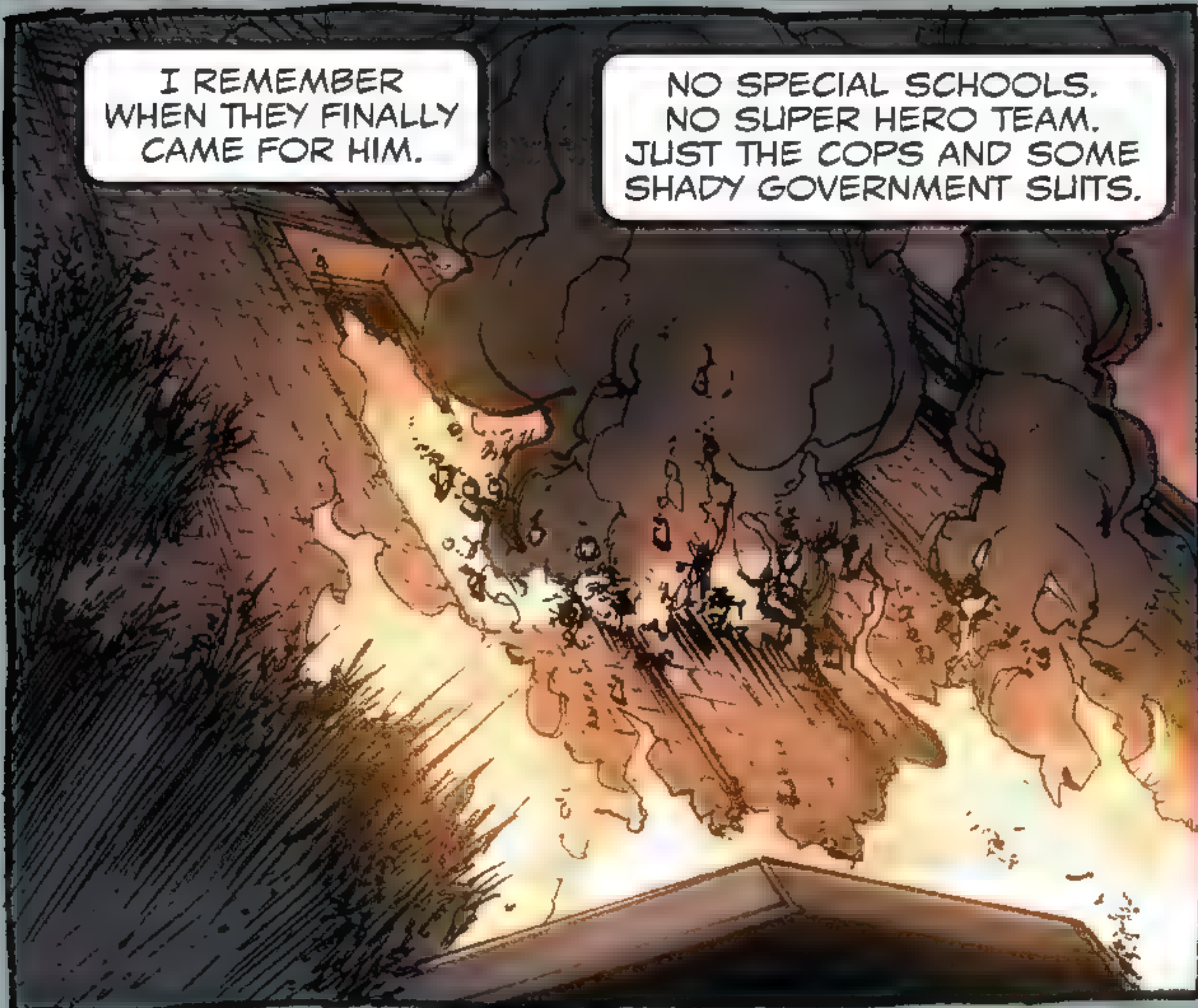
DEVELOPED **MUTANT**  
**POWERS**. HE USE TO  
SHOW THEM OFF--ROASTING  
BEEHIVES, SQUIRRELS,  
WHATEVER. HE THOUGHT  
HE WAS PRETTY COOL.

WHOA!  
AWESOME!



I REMEMBER  
WHEN THEY FINALLY  
CAME FOR HIM.

NO SPECIAL SCHOOLS.  
NO SUPER HERO TEAM.  
JUST THE COPS AND SOME  
SHADY GOVERNMENT SUITS.



I WASN'T HOME WHEN  
IT HAPPENED. BUT MY  
**MOM** WAS.



DAD SPLIT NOT LONG  
AFTER THAT. I REMEMBER  
LOOKING AT MY WHOLE LIFE  
LITERALLY GOING UP IN  
FLAMES AND THINKING:



YOU MUST  
BE LEE. MY NAME  
IS SARAH, AND I'M  
WITH CHILDREN AND  
FAMILY SERVICES.  
COME WITH ME,  
WE'RE GOING TO  
GET YOU  
SOMEWHERE  
SAFE.

IF IT'D BEEN ME  
WITH THAT POWER,  
I'D HAVE BURNED  
THE WHOLE THING  
DOWN **YEARS**  
AGO.

AND I WOULD  
NEVER HAVE  
GOTTEN CAUGHT.





THESE ARE THE  
MEMORIES I USE  
TO SMOTHER THE  
THING IN MY HEAD AS  
IT **SCREAMS** AT  
ME. TO MAKE IT  
GO SILENT.

BUT THAT'S **ANOTHER** THING  
I LEARNED IN THE RANGERS.  
SCREAMING SOLVES NOTHING.  
THE PERSON WHO'S SCREAMING?  
THEY'VE **ALREADY** LOST.

THE PEOPLE WHO **WIN**  
ARE THE PEOPLE WHO STAY  
CALM. AND THE PEOPLE  
WHO GET **LUCKY?**

THEY'RE THE PEOPLE  
WHO USE THOSE BREAKS  
TO THEIR **ADVANTAGE.**

AND SO I MINIMIZED  
ALL THE **VARIABLES**  
IN THE SITUATION. I  
CAPITALIZED ON THE  
IMMEDIATE **GAINS.**





AND THEN I  
WENT HOME...

...TO FIGURE OUT  
HOW TO USE THIS  
POWER TO MY  
ADVANTAGE.

TO BE CONTINUED...



# SYMBIOTE WROTE

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**DAN BUCKLEY**  
PUBLISHER

**ALAN FINE**  
EXEC. PRODUCER

## WELCOME BACK, VENOM!

For years, Venom has been one of the most iconic Spider-Man villains in the Friendly Neighborhood Wall-Crawler's rogues' gallery. Created by Todd McFarlane, Mike Zeck, and David Michelinie in 1988, the sinister symbiote became a sensation almost immediately. There's something about Venom's look – his eyes, fangs, and of course his classic black-and-white color scheme – that's made him an international icon of villainy. You get a single glance at him and know he's not exactly "nice."

And yet, almost from his inception, there's been a tendency to drive Venom toward heroism. First, he was a lethal protector, then a secret agent, and most recently a Guardian of the Galaxy. There have been hundreds of Venom stories over the years, and a plethora of them have been about Venom grappling with his own violent tendencies and trying to be hero.

Not this time.

At the keyboard for this series is Mike Costa, who devoted Spider-Fans may recognize as the writer of 2014's SCARLET SPIDERS miniseries or the recent cult hit WEB-WARRIORS. As you've seen, Mike's a terrific writer, and one of his greatest strengths is that his characters are all very deliberately written. Like a playwright, Mike ensures that all of his characters are acting with an objective in mind, and he's taken that style of characterization and applied it to the Venom symbiote itself, a perspective we've rarely seen in

the near 30-year history of the character. This is the first real look into the symbiote's thoughts and feelings that we've taken, and it's going to pay off in ways you'll never see coming.

Serving as artist on this run will be Gerardo Sandoval, who also closed out the previous volume of the series featuring Flash Thompson playing host to the symbiote. Gerardo's style is incredibly visceral, but maintains an elegant quality that makes it perfect for the shape-shifting superviolence of Venom. Gerardo's doing some of the best Venom artwork I've ever seen, and I've been reading Venom stories since I was six years old. This is Venom in his prime, as he was meant to be drawn!

From the outset, our goal with this series has been to create a lasting, meaningful chapter in the Venom saga, threading classic characters and members of the Venom mythos into a new and exciting story. We've got some big things in store. Seriously, you've got no idea. This is a love letter to Venom fans everywhere. You've already seen that Mac Gargan plays a part in the story, and we've got big plans for Flash Thompson.

Am I forgetting anyone?

Don't get me wrong, the struggle between what is right and what is wrong, between justice and vengeance, between good and evil, are all part of the core of Venom's character. Thanks to his time bonded with Peter Parker, heroism is literally written into his DNA, but this is unlike any volume of VENOM

you've ever read before.

You've seen it yourself in these very pages. This is still the Venom you know and love, but a new host and his most recent adventures have given the symbiote a new perspective. This time around, we're pushing the limits in nearly every way. Now, Venom is like a raw nerve. Violent, chaotic, angry.

Hope you aren't squeamish.

VENOM #2 will be on stands on 12/21, just in time for the holidays, so be sure to pick up a copy for each and every loved one on your list. In the meantime, be sure to drop us a line at [SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM](mailto:SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM) and let us know how we're doing!

Stay sharp,  
Devin  
[@edevinlewis](https://twitter.com/edevinlewis)

## NEXT ISSUE:

